

# TECHNICAL LITERACY SERIES

**COMPUTER**  
SELF-TEST TAPE GUIDE



National Education Corporation

# **SCHOOL OF COMPUTER TRAINING**

## **SELF-TEST TAPE GUIDE**

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# SELF-TEST TAPE

**LOAD TIME: 6 Minutes**

Load and Run by typing LOAD "TEST"

The Self-Test Tape is a program for completing the exam at the end of each of the eleven study units. You start with a blank answer sheet on the television screen. With a simple set of commands you can answer the questions for each exam and the computer will automatically score your test, provide your test score, and list the reference articles and page numbers of those questions you have answered incorrectly.

This program allows for immediate feedback of your progress after each study unit by providing you your corrected test and reference information. Therefore, you should not send in the study unit answer sheets for grading.

To use the Self-Test Tape you will first need to set up the Timex/Sinclair 1500 Computer.

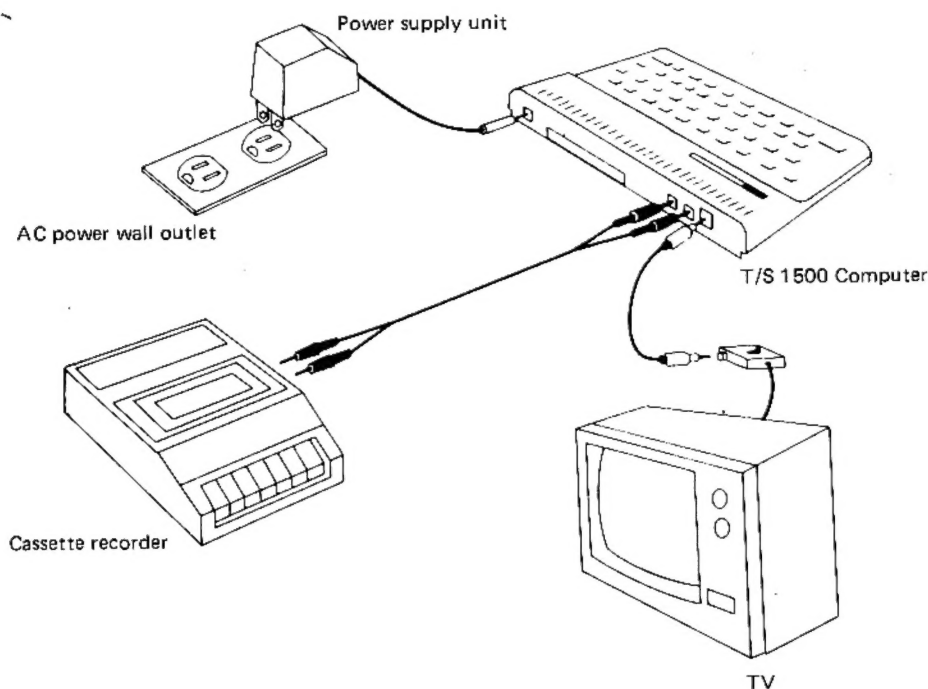
## SETTING UP THE TIMEX/SINCLAIR 1500

Before setting up your new computer system, check to see that you have all of the following components:

- Timex/Sinclair 1500 Microcomputer.
- Power adapter with cord.
- CRT computer switch box.
- CRT connector lead.
- Auxiliary dual audio cable.
- User Manual.

In addition to these system components, you will need a television set. It is recommended that you use a small black and white set as your TV monitor. This will work better with the Timex/Sinclair 1500, and it will project clearer images than the large color sets.

Now that you have found all the parts, you can begin to put the system together to program the Self-Test Tape.

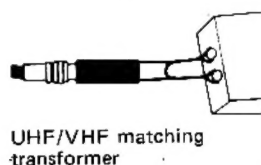
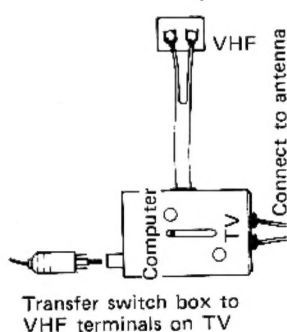


First, disconnect the VHF-TV antenna wires from your television set (you can leave UHF wires alone).

Connect the wires from the transfer switch box to the VHF terminals on your TV instead, and then connect the antenna wires to the screws marked TV on the switch box.

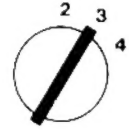
Plug the connecting cable into the socket on the switch box and into the TV socket on the Timex/Sinclair 1500.

If you have cable TV, or a 75-ohm antenna lead (the round wire, instead of the flat one), you'll need to buy a "UHF/VHF matching transformer" (or it may be called something else; your local electronics store can advise you) for about three dollars. You may even have to contact your cable company if their wire goes directly into your set instead of screwing on to the terminal on the back.

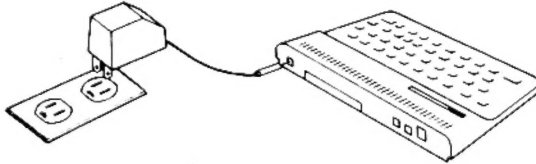


Next, turn on the TV. Set to channel 2 or channel 3, whichever one is not being used for broadcasting in your area.

Then, plug the power supply into the wall and into the 9V DC socket on the computer.



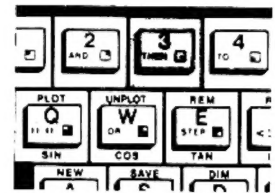
Television channels



Computer to power supply

If your TV is set to channel 3, press the number 3 on the Timex/Sinclair 1500's keyboard. The Timex/Sinclair 1500 will automatically "broadcast" to channel 2 unless "3" is the first key pressed after it is turned on. If the 3 appears on the TV screen (it may or may not, depending on how quickly you press the key after plugging in the computer), press the ENTER key to remove it.

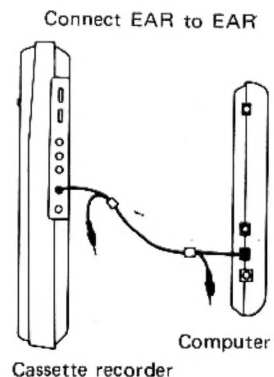
Turn the sound all the way down. You should now have K in the lower left-hand corner of the screen.



**NOTE.** If you are having difficulty getting the K to appear on the screen, refer to Page 5-9 in the User Manual.

Connect the recorder to the computer with the dual audio cable. Notice that the plugs at the ends of the cables are color-coded, so that you can easily make the right connections. Just connect EAR to EAR with the same color plug at each end of the cable.

Now you are ready to LOAD the Self-Test Tape.



Cassette recorder

## LOADING THE SELF-TEST TAPE

Make sure the Self-Test Tape is rewound to the beginning, and that the K cursor is still on your TV screen.

Then press LOAD which is what you get when you press the J key while the K cursor is showing. You'll notice that the cursor has changed to L. This means that the computer now will give you the main symbol on any key you press, or — if you hold the shift down while you press another key — the shifted symbol, which is in black (the same color as SHIFT) on the key.

You will want to instruct the computer to load the Self-Test Tape, so you must put the name in quotes.

Hold down the SHIFT key and press the P key and you'll get quotation marks.

Then, without the SHIFT, type in Test, making sure you spell it correctly. Then type SHIFT P again for quotation marks.

Now press the PLAY key on your cassette recorder and then press ENTER on the computer.

When the computer has finished loading the program, the program will begin running and you will see a "title screen" with instructions.

**NOTE.** *If you are having difficulty loading the Self-Test Tape, refer to Pages 24-30 in the User Manual.*

## RUNNING THE SELF-TEST TAPE

The Self-Test Tape is easy to follow. You will need to follow the directions as they appear on the television screen.

First find the Exam at the end of the Study Unit you have mastered. Under the title of the Study Unit you will find the test number you need to enter in the computer program. Press the correct number for this test (i.e. 4705) and ENTER the test number.

A list of numbers corresponding to the test questions will be listed on the television. Read the question in the Study Unit exam and enter your answer by pressing the letter (a, b, c, d) which corresponds with your choice and enter it.

After you have completed answering all the questions, you can change an answer by following the instructions and entering YES to change an answer. The program will ask you which question you want to answer. Enter the question number, and then you will be able to change this answer. By entering NO, the computer will automatically correct your exam and give you your results.

You can review your results and choose to list reference articles and page numbers by reading the instructions given and answering YES. If you want to go on to another test enter NO and the program will return to the beginning and ask which test. Simply enter a new test number and continue.

### HINTS.

1. To erase the last character you have entered, use the DELETE key (Shift 0) and

- enter the correct character.
2. To enter a space press the RIGHT ARROW key (Shift 8).
  3. Never press the BREAK key. If you should accidentally press this key, you will need to reload the Self-Test Tape.

## **SOME GENERAL SUGGESTIONS:**

1. The volume at which the program is loaded is very important. Usually  $\frac{3}{4}$  maximum volume works best but recorders vary and may require experimentation with the volume setting. If you have a technical background you can check the output level of your recorder's EAR/SPKR jack. It must be at least 4 volts peak-to-peak although 5 to 6 volts peak-to-peak is best.

2. Clean and demagnetize the heads of the tape recorder. Your ears may not pick up the signal fluctuations due to magnetic flux on the tape heads but the computer has a much more sensitive "ear."

3. The computer is very susceptible to outside interference. Working on a metal table or near electrical appliances should be avoided.

4. Occasionally, once a program has loaded, the video display will show instability. This can be corrected by adjusting the vertical hold on the television.